

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 066483
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05
CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY:DH
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE
AF/S:FGWISNER
AF/EPSE:EGALL (DRAFT)
AFR/ESA:OCYLKE (DRAFT)
-----251856Z 105176 /41 S

O R 251616Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066483

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, BC

SUBJECT: BOT-ZAM ROAD AND RAILWAY CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: (A) GABORONE 696; (B) GABORONE 726, (C) STATE 65351

1. ON MARCH 22 BOTSWANAN AMBASSADOR MOOKODI AND MINFIN
PERM SEC GAOLATHE MET WITH AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE TO DISCUSS
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BOT-ZAM ROAD BEFORE DISCUSSING ROAD LATER WITH OTHER STATE
AND AID OFFICERS. IN BOTH MEETINGS MOOKODI REPEATED GOB
REQUEST FOR US TO FINANCE: (A) DESIGN OF BOT-ZAM ROAD
AND (B) EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF RAILWAY EQUIPMENT. GAOLATHE
SAID RECENT CANADIAN STUDY ESTIMATED \$16 MILLION REQUIRED
FOR PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY ROLLING STOCK AND FOR SALARIES
OVER THREE YEARS. HE SAID BOTSWANA WANTED ROLLING STOCK

OPERATIONAL BY END OF 1979. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE SAID WE WOULD FINANCE DESIGN OF BOT-ZAM ROAD (\$1 MILLION) BUT THAT WE NEEDED MORE INFO BEFORE RESPONDING TO RAILROAD REQUEST.

2. IN SECOND MEETING, CYLKE, AID/AFR/ESA DIRECTOR SAID WE COULD DESIGN BOT-ZAM ROAD IN COOPERATION WITH EDF, FROM FY 77 FUNDS. HE THEN DISCUSSED PROBLEMS WE WOULD

FACE WITH RAILWAY PROJECT. THEY INCLUDE FACT WE DO NOT HAVE \$16 MILLION AVAILABLE IN FY 1977, AND FY 1978 FUNDING UNCERTAIN. COMPLEXITY ESTABLISHING NEW RAILWAY WOULD ALSO RAISE QUESTIONS OF ANALYSIS WHICH COULD SLOW WHAT IS OBVIOUS EMERGENCY REQUEST. AID WOULD BE ABLE TO EXAMINE RAILROAD REQUEST ONCE FY 78 FUNDING AVAILABILITIES BETTER KNOWN. THIS WOULD ALSO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME TO COMPLETE ANALYSIS THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT US FUNDING.

3. WE PROPOSED THREE OPTIONS FOR USE OF BALANCE OF FY 77 FUNDS, ON WHICH GAOLATHE WILL SEEK GOB VIEWS: (1) FUND REFUGEE PROJECTS SUGGESTED BY FARAH REPORT, PARTICULARLY SECONDARY SCHOOLS; (2) CO-FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF BOT-ZAM, NOTWITHSTANDING PROBLEMS OF MIXED FUNDING; AND (3) CONSIDER FINANCING PORTION OF RAILWAY PROJECT. FYI: GAOLATHE SUGGESTED GOB POSSIBLY STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER TO SEEK AID FUNDING OF WHOLE ROAD, PART OF ROAD, OR SIMPLY ENGINEERING STUDY. END FYI.

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4. STATE/AID OFFICERS PREFER OPTION ONE BECAUSE OF ITS HUMANITARIAN APPEAL AND OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND RELATIVELY QUICKLY. HOWEVER, WE ARE WILLING TO CO-FINANCE THE BOT-ZAM ROAD IF THAT IS BOTSWANAN PREFERENCE FOR USE OF OUR FY 77 FUNDS. DUE TO PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME FOR USG FINANCING OF RAILWAY PROJECT, WE CANNOT REALISTICALLY EXPECT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY WITH FY 77 FUNDS. HOWEVER, WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER FINANCING IN FY 78, IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGH SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING AND IF ANALYSIS PROVES PROJECT IS FEASIBLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DISCUSS THREE OPTIONS WITH BOTSWANAN OFFICIALS AND SEEK THEIR CONCURRENCE ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED. YOU MAY EXPLAIN OUR PREFERENCE FOR ASSISTING WITH REFUGEE PROBLEM, IF BOTSWANAN OFFICIALS DO NOT WANT US TO FULLY FINANCE BOT-ZAM ROAD. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY INDICATION, DISCREETLY ELICITED, ABOUT WHETHER GOB IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING CUTTING RAILROAD TO RHODESIA.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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